

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



PRESS RELEASE

CARAT BANGLADESH COMMENCES THIS WEEK

CHITTAGONG , SEPTEMBER 16 -- The second annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise between the U.S. Navy and Bangladesh Navy begins Sept. 17 with an opening ceremony at Naval Base Issa Khan in Chittagong.

CARAT is a series of bilateral military exercises between the U.S. Navy and the armed forces of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia, and Timor Leste.

While the exercise is designed to enhance maritime security skills and operational cohesiveness among participating forces, it also focuses on relationship building between military participants through sports and social events, and improving relationships with the civilian community through civic action projects and community service events.

The inaugural CARAT Bangladesh 2011 was an ambitious, 8-day exercise that focused on increasing interoperability which included: a 2-day at sea phase of ship-ship maneuvers, riverine warfare, diving and salvage, and visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) training. Building on that complexity, this year's exercise features a sea-rider exchange program, shipboard helicopter operations and a longer 3-day at sea phase.

The overarching goals of CARAT are to enhance regional cooperation, promote understanding and build trust between participating naval and marine forces, and increase the operational readiness of both nations. CARAT contributes to regional maritime security by enhancing capabilities in areas such as maritime interception, information sharing, anti-piracy, anti-smuggling, and combined operations at sea.

Bangladesh ships participating in this year's CARAT include the BNS Banganhandu, BNS Sangu and BNS Nirbhoy. Bangladesh Navy personnel will also participate in events on BNS Issa Khan throughout the week, as will members of Special Warfare Diving and Salvage (SWADS).

U.S. Navy ships participating in CARAT Bangladesh include the USS Decatur (DDG 73) and the diving and salvage ship USNS Safeguard (T-ARS 50). Other participants include Marines from Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team Pacific (FASTPAC) and Sailors from Riverine Squadron Two (RIVRON TWO) and Mobile Underwater Diving Salvage Unit (MUDSU).

=====

For complete information on U.S. Embassy Dhaka, including copies of all speeches and press releases in English and Bangla, please visit our web site at <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>. And stay connected on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bangladesh.usembassy.